

IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Cancel) A recombinant expression vector containing peptide encoding fragments of the polynucleotide of Claim 7 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (New) An isolated polynucleotide which encodes MTase comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to an exon of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the exon is selected from the group consisting of exon 4, exon 5, exon 6, exon 7, and exon 8 as shown in Figure 1.

18. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the exon is exon 4.

19. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the exon is exon 5.

20. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the exon is exon 6.

21. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the exon is exon 7.

22. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the exon is exon 8.

REMARKS

With this amendment, new claims 17-22 are pending. Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice to subsequent revival. Claims 10 and 12-16 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to nonelected inventions. For convenience, the Examiner's rejections are addressed in the order presented in the August 14, 2002 Office